FOSSIL MARSUPIALS FROM MARMOR.

By Heber A. Longman (Director).

(Plate XXVI, Figure 2.)

In a former issue of this publication[1] I placed on record a number of fossil marsupial specimens from the extensive deposits of cave-earth exposed at the limestone quarry at Marmor, North Coast Line, Queensland, which had been forwarded through the kindly interest of the local manager, Mr. Samuel Evans. The list included *Diprotodon australis*, *Phascolomys* sp., *Macropus* sp., *Thylacoleo carnifex* and *Trichosurus* sp. Additional material has been received from time to time, and although the specimens are very fragmentary, mostly being bone breccia cemented in cave-earth, evidence is now available for other records.

Sarcophilus laniarius Owen (*F. 1693*).—This large Polyprotodont is represented by a portion of a left maxilla with the last premolar and two anterior true molars, with other isolated molar fragments and a canine. The maxilla is still partly embedded in matrix. This was exhibited at the October meeting of the Royal Society of Queensland,[2] and it is of interest to recall that a still smaller fragment (*F. 1373*), consisting of part of a mandible with a single molar, from the Mount Etna Fertiliser Company deposits, near Rockhampton, was placed on record by the writer in 1921.[3] This material from Marmor and Mount Etna represents a species closely allied to, if not identical with, *Sarcophilus laniarius* from the Darling Downs, but although more complete specimens may afford data for a distinctive name, it would be unsatisfactory to give one at present.

Thylacinus spelæus Owen.—An incomplete conical crown, received from Mr. Evans with the *Sarcophilus* specimens, could not be placed except with the premolars of the extinct Queensland representative of the marsupial wolf, but this dental fragment seemed a somewhat inadequate basis for a record. However, in March last a complete, isolated molar tooth was received, and this proved to be the third true molar from the right hand side of the mandible. This tooth (*F. 1737*) is illustrated on Plate XXVI., Figure 2, and in order to show its large size in comparison with its present-day Tasmanian representative it is placed immediately above the corresponding tooth in *Thylacinus cynocephalus*. The tooth is slightly incomplete on its anterior face,

[1] Longman, Mem. Qld. Mus., VIII., Pt. 1, 1924, p. 21.

[2] Abs. Proc. Roy. Soc. Qld., XXXVI., p. XVII.

[3] Abs. Proc. Roy. Soc. Qld., XXXIII., p. XIV.

but its maximum antero-posterior length, above the alveolar portion, is 17 mm. The maximum breadth is 8·5 mm. In these marsupial carnivores there is considerable variation in the dentition of the sexes, and it is thus probable that the Marmor tooth comes within the range of male specimens of Owen's species. In describing *Thylacinus rostralis* from the Darling Downs,[4] De Vis emphasized the relatively longer muzzle, as shown by the greater antero-posterior extent of the dental arcade anterior to the true molars.

Phascogale flavipes Waterhouse.—A fragment (*F. 1738*) of the left ramus of a mandible, containing the last three molars and the alveoli of the first and of a premolar, agrees most nearly with the northern sub-species of this "pouched mouse," described by Oldfield Thomas as *Phascogale flavipes adusta*.[5]

Petrogale cf. *inornata* Gould.—This is based on a specimen with four true molars in position in a fragment of the left ramis of a mandible (*F. 1739*). The maximum length of the molar series is 24 mm. The ridges of the last tooth show but slight signs of wear, but the mandible is rather more robust than that in present-day rock wallabies as represented in our collection. There is considerable variation in this region, however, and this character, in the degree presented, is not of specific value.

Acknowledgments.—It is my pleasant duty to thank Mr. A. A. Boyd, manager of the Mount Morgan Gold Mining Coy., and especially the local manager at the Marmor Quarry, Mr. Samuel Evans, for reserving and presenting this interesting material.

[4] De Vis, Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W., VIII. (2), 1893, p. 444.

[5] O. Thomas, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (9), XI., 1923, p. 175.